

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 IO-13 MCT-01 TRSE-00 /088 W
-----312347Z 112732 /70/53

O 301855Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9582

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2395

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1 3RD LINE FM BOTTOM ADD LIVES)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SP, AG

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON SPANISH PROTEST TO ALGERIA
OVER CUBILLO

REF: MADRID 2330

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CHIEF FOR SUBSAHARAN AFRICA AND CONTINENTAL ASIA (CASSINELLO), WHO IS A CLOSE PROFESSIONAL AND POLITICAL ASSOCIATE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR AFRICA AND CONTINENTAL ASIA (MORAN), TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 30 THAT MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY SOLANO AND MORAN HAD CALLED IN ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR KHELLADI TO PROTEST ABOUT CANARIAN INDEPENDENTIST CUBILLO AND HIS RECENT ACTIONS, INCLUDING THE SPECIFIC ROLE OF THE BOMB EXPLOSION AT LAS PALMAS IN THE CHAIN OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE AIR TRAGEDY AT TENERIFE, AND CUBILLO'S SUBSEQUENT DECLARATION THAT HE WAS AT WAR WITH SPAIN. ACCORDING TO CASSINELLO, WHO CALLED KHELLADI A PERSONAL FRIEND BUT AN OCCASIONALLY DIFFICULT MAN, THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR REACTED BRUSQUELY AND CALLOUSLY, WHEREUPON THE SPANIARDS RESPONDED THAT IF THE
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ALGERIANS' ATTITUDE WAS REALLY THAT SOME 570 LIVES DID NOT COUNT, THEY WOULD SEE WHAT SPAIN'S REACTION WOULD BE. CASSINELLO DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS "TUMULTUOUS".

2. CASSINELLO WENT ON TO NOTE THAT FOR ALL OF THE ANGER FELT IN SPAIN OVER THE MATTER, THERE WERE ALSO CONSTRAINTS ON THE SPANISH SIDE. WITH A SUBSTANTIAL SPANISH LOAN (OR

LOANS) IN ALGERIA, THERE WERE SPANISH INTERESTS URGING CAUTION. ADDITIONALLY, HE SAID, WITH THE ALGERIANS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PROCEED IN A CAREFULLY CONTROLLED WAY WITHOUT THEIR GOING SUDDENLY AND PRECIPITOUSLY TO A FULL BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH THE GOS WANTED TO AVOID.

3. COMMENT: REGARDING SPAIN'S ECONOMIC STAKE IN ALGERIA, WE NOTE THAT SPAIN DID EXTEND A 2-YEAR, RENEWABLE, \$44 MILLION EXPORT CREDIT AT VERY FAVORABLE TERMS TO ALGERIA IN 1973. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER IT HAS BEEN USED. SPAIN'S EXPORTS TO ALGERIA IN 1976 WERE ABOUT \$145 MILLION AND IMPORTS FROM ALGERIA AMOUNTED TO SOME \$210 MILLION. THUS IT WOULD NOT APPEAR THAT THE EXPORT CREDIT WAS VERY SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF ACTUAL TRADE. ON THE OTHER HAND, SPANISH COMPANIES HAVE SEVERAL LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN ALGERIA, INCLUDING A NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM TO HOOK INTO THE UNDERSEA CABLE TO PALMA DE MALLORCA, ALGERIA'S ONLY CABLE LINK WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. EATON

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Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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